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**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2023**

**RECOGNIZING** Bonita Campbell as a 2023 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for her decades of continuous leadership and work on housing and family services in the City of Cincinnati, and especially in the City’s Black community.

WHEREAS, Bonita Campbell moved to Cincinnati to attend the University of Cincinnati, where she joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated and received a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice, followed by a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Campbell is a Licensed Social Worker and Certified Trauma Practitioner, and her education inspired her to focus on rehabilitation efforts within her community; and

WHEREAS, due to a formative experience as an intern at the Bob Hope House group home, Ms. Campbell found herself called to work in the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Campbell began working at New Life Youth Services in 1991 as a foster parent recruiter, from which she built a network of African American foster parents in the area, transitioning the organization from traditional foster care to treatment foster care and garnering over 100 foster parents in one year; and

WHEREAS, for over thirty years, Ms. Campbell continued to work with New Life Youth Services, which became Lighthouse Youth Services in 1994; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Ms. Campbell became the Division Director of Youth Housing Opportunities, which encompassed housing resources for people over the age of eighteen and independent living resources for children aging out of the Child Welfare System; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Ms. Campbell became the Vice President of Homeless Youth Services and began supervising the organization’s two youth homeless shelters, during which time she advocated for federal policy changes to impact young people and families in the community while expanding the footprint of services provided by Lighthouse Youth Services; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Campbell serves as the Chair of the Continuum of Care Youth Work group, which works with partners across the community to address youth homelessness and provide workforce development resources for young people; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Campbell is serving her second term as the Board Co-Chair of the Homeless Coalition, which is a unified social agency dedicated to eradicating homelessness and seeking affordable and equitable housing; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Campbell has worked throughout her career to ensure that young people of color and those in the LGBTQ+ community are treated equitably and with respect, by promoting the voices of youth and young adults, providing training in Youth Voice and Culture, and co-chairing the Racial Equity Core team at Lighthouse Youth Services; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Campbell's greatest accomplishments are her two sons: Akeem, who is a Healthcare Navigator, and Akil, who has found his calling through theology, and who both enjoy writing music, acting, and singing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Bonita Campbell as a 2023 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree for her decades of continuous leadership on housing and family services in the City of Cincinnati, and especially in the City's Black community.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Ms. Campbell through the office of Councilmember Reggie Harris.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Reggie Harris